

# HIGHLAND PARK

Community Club  
Newsletter for  
November 1999



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Edited by Ollie Rieley

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## A Message from the President

*Diane DeNardo*

Greetings from Winterton Street. I encourage you to attend the November 18th HPCC Meeting. Meg Cheever, President of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will be our guest and featured speaker. She will be presenting a slide program describing the work of the organization and will be available for a question and answer session. Come and learn about the plans that affect Highland Park. Learn how to keep informed or how to get involved.

More exciting things are about to happen in our neighborhood. The Highland Park Community Development Corporation is hard at work in redeveloping properties, putting together plans for the improvement of our commercial district, and preparing for the restoration of the formal gardens and fountain that graced the entrance to Highland Park a century ago. Tom Dickson, President of the HPCDC, will speak about these and other issues at the January meeting. Please attend and learn how to keep informed or how to get involved.

Marsha Dugan and Dave Sufrin are re-grouping the Super Playground Committee to overhaul the structure. Debbie DeAngelis led an effort to restore the Welcome Statues, Dave Hance led the effort to keep the Reservoir from being covered, Dell Ziegler and the community gardeners continue to beautify our street corners. Mercine Nefores and Jan Stayianos have recently agreed to work as chairs of the Public Safety and Block Watch Program committees.

These and hundreds of other neighborhood volunteers are improving Highland Park everyday. Much of their work is unseen and unfortunately not easy to recognize. But combined--how powerful these efforts are. Thank you to everyone who works on behalf of our children, our elderly neighbors, our schools, our safety, our environment... Thank you for making Highland Park a better place. Attend a community meeting and learn how to keep informed or how to get involved.

## November Program to Feature Meg Cheever of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

The program for the November meeting of HPCC will be presented by Meg Cheever, President of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. She will show slides describing the work of the Conservancy followed by a question and answer session. Everyone is invited to attend this program. There will be a party in lieu of a December meeting, watch for details in next Newsletter. Tom Dickson of

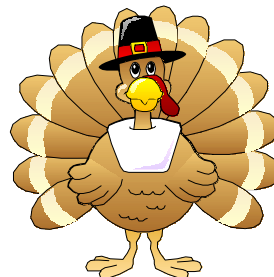
### Special Election

A Special Election for HPCC Treasurer will be held at the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. All members are invited to attend and vote. Jill Boarts has been nominated and has agreed to serve, if elected. Other nominations may be made from the floor. All members of the club are eligible to vote so come on out to this meeting and express yourself!

CDC will present the January program.

**Have A Safe  
Thanksgivin**

**And Happy  
g!**



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THE NEXT HPCC MEETING IS 7:15 P.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> AT ST. ANDREWS

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## Thank You, Norma!

*Fran Cohen*

It is time to give thanks and recognition to Norma Lipscomb for her many activities on behalf of the club. In the last eight years she has served on the board, conscientiously labored as our treasurer and raised a great deal of money through house tours and silent auction. Dedication, care and creativity have gone into these endeavors, not to mention many hours of hard work.

Occasionally, Norma has taken controversial positions on specific issues, in some respects acting as our "conscience", and that has been an extremely valuable service to the club.

I hope that there are many others who feel as I do and that they will join me in saying a hearty **THANK YOU**, Norma.

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## November is Free Kids Month at the Zoo

Our neighbor, the Zoo, is offering free admission to children ages two through 13 during the month of November.

"We believe its an important contribution for the Zoo to make to the community", says Dr. Barbara Baker, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Zoo. "We at the Zoo know that the future health of the earth's environment lies largely in the hands of our children."

Since its privatization in 1994, Baker says the zoo has made it a priority to educate and entertain the young people of the region. In the spirit of this mission, the Zoo continues to offer Free Kids Month to encourage children to learn about the earth and its creatures through naturalistic habitats, interactive animal exhibits and play stations.

***One adult chaperon must be present for every 10 children in a group.***

In addition, November 4 thru January 4 will feature a toy and

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## H. P. C. C.

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Comm. Dev. V.P.: Mitch Kales (661-4995)

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: Paula Flaherty

Past President: Mitch Kales (661-4995)

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Jay Gilmer 363-9100 (00)

Kelly Meade 362-0331 (00)

Mary Lee Snuffer 734-8477 (00)

Bob Staresinic 441-8972 (00)

Tom Burns 363-3654 (01)

David Hance 361-4935 (01)

M. Meyers 661-2315 (01)

Ollie Rieley 661-1205 (01)

Kathy Ziegler 363-1252 (01)

Jay Carson (02)

Amy Enrico 362-2970 (02)

Paula Flaherty 361-2203 (02)

Karen Raffensberger 363-9750 (02)

Jan Stajanos (02)

### Committees

Beautification: Dell Ziegler 363-1252

Block Watch: Jan Stajanos

Children: Tania Grubbs 661-4054

Commercial District: Muzz Meyers 661-2315

Day Camp: Janice Burgett 361-2195

Education: Jay Gilmer 363-9100

Hospitality: Kelly Dougherty 362-9517

House Tour: Norma Lipscomb 362-6562

Membership: Kelly Meade 362-0331

Newsletter: Ollie Rieley 661-1205

Program: Bruce Robison 361-4892

Public Safety: Mercine Nefores 661-5425

Recreation: Charlie Peterson 441-2766

Reservoir Covers: Dave Hance 361-4935

Restoration: Debbie DeAngelis 363-4948

Super Playground: Steve Peltier 363-3978

Yard Sale: Judy Wolfe 441-7830

Voice Mail: Paula Flaherty 361-2203

Welcoming: Bob Staresinic 441-8972

Zoning: \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Mail 734-5261

C. O. P. 665-3644 - Pager 690-6008

train display in the Kid's Kingdom Discovery Pavilion.

## **Around St. Andrew's**

*Bruce Robison*

The rousing sound of bagpipe and drum will ring through our Highland Park neighborhood on Sunday morning, November 21st, as the annual celebration of St. Andrew's Day, our congregation's patronal festival, begins in the parish Churchyard at 10:45 with a pre-service concert by the Syria Highlanders Band. The St. Andrew's Day service at 11 a.m. is a traditionally festive celebration, with special music accompanied by the Syria Highlanders--and the morning ends with an elegant reception, including refreshments for the whole family. All our Highland Park neighbors are warmly invited to join us for some or all of this great morning!

Other special services on the schedule this month include, on November 7th, the observation of All Saints Sunday--which will be begin with prayers at the Memorial Garden in the Churchyard at 10:50 a.m. The 11 a.m. service of Holy Communion on that morning will include prayers for departed loved ones and the celebration of First Communion for our elementary First Communion Class. Choral Evensong will be sung on the "First Thursday" of November, November 4th, beginning at 8 p.m., with a recital of traditional Russian songs to follow. Our worship for the holiday of Thanksgiving will be on "Thanksgiving Eve," Wednesday, November 24th, at 8 p.m. The service will include traditional Pilgrim and Harvest hymns, and all in attendance are asked to bring an item of non-perishable food to include in an offering for the East End Food Pantry.

St. Andrew's Adult Education Committee also invites the neighborhood to an evening with Dr. Don Gowan, newly-retired Professor of Old Testament at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, who will help us reflect theologically on some of the contemporary elements of "Y2K Hysteria" in looking back at the "Apocalyptic Literature of the Old Testament." That program will be Friday evening, November 19th, beginning at 8 p.m.

St. Andrew's Church has been at the center of the Highland Park neighborhood, on the corner of Hampton Street and North Euclid Avenue, for nearly a century. For more information about any of our services or programs, please give our Church Office a call at (412) 661-1245.

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## **Work on the Highland Park Historic District**

*Charles Peterson and Margot Cavalier*

The Highland Park Community Development Corporation (the "CDC") continues to work on an application to have the Highland Park neighborhood placed on the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places. First and foremost, National Register designation is an honor for our neighborhood. Secondly, it increases the financial incentives for private property

owners to maintain the historic character of the Highland Park neighborhood.

National Register designation, i.e., federal designation, is less restrictive than historic district designation by the City of Pittsburgh. Federal designation does not limit what kinds of improvements private property owners can make to their property. For example, if you want to do some work on your house, you will not need to submit plans to a historic review board or conform to a historic standard. However, if you want to receive federal tax credits for the rehab work, the work must be consistent with the historic character of the building.

Currently, these federal tax credits are available for the rehab of commercial property and residential rental property. Pending legislation would extend the availability of rehab tax credits to homeowners.

The application is a multi-faceted process involving the surveying of over 1,300 structures in the neighborhood and the Park itself, documentation of the historic qualities (both social and architectural), and an evaluation of significance by local, state and federal preservation professionals. Much of this work began in 1995. If achieved, federal designation will make rehab expenses eligible for the tax credit (which is 20% of the certified rehab costs) and ultimately, make restoration more affordable.

The CDC will sponsor a public meeting before final action on the federal designation is taken, in order to hear comments from local residents and provide more information on the district and its benefits. Look for details in future issues of the Community Club newsletter!

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## The Welcoming Committee

*Bob Staresinic*

The Welcoming Committee is continuing to welcome new neighbors to Highland Park. Houses seem to be selling at a rate of 4-5 per week. I have been trying to drop off a Welcome bag as soon as I can after someone moves in, along with stopping at homes that have been missed over the past 18 months. We have welcomed 35 people since the last report in the Summer.

If you are interested in being part of this committee or have any ideas about welcoming new neighbors to Highland Park, please let me know. We have canvas bags to stuff with various information, including voter registration, bus schedules, local menus and the garbage schedule. I would like to know before someone moves into their new home, so we can get information to them as quick as possible.

If you have something you would like to include in the Welcome information and haven't talked to me, please give me a call. (412-441-8972)

I would like to thank Jan Stayianos, who has been delivering bags over the past several months, and is decreasing the number of folks who haven't been welcomed.

I once again apologize to all those who have not been welcomed by the committee. Give me a call and I will be right over.

## Highlights of October Meeting

*Paula Flaherty*

Meeting called to Order at 7:40 P.M.

Vice President Mitch Kates presiding in the absence of President Diane DeNardo.

**Program:** C.O.P. Officer Christine Scalise presented an interesting and important discussion of Public Safety and the Block Watch Program. Historically, Highland Park was the first neighborhood to initiate a block watch program (1970's) and the program was recognized for importance by the Governor of the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, our Block Watch program has just faded out. Officer Scalise presented information on crime this year which shows the need for more crime prevention in our neighborhood. (See separate article.) Among other things, Officer Scalise is striving to reactivate the Block Watch program as one way to fight crime.

**Old Business:** Elections. Mitch Kates was nominated for the position of Community Development Vice President and elected without opposition. Jill Boarts has agreed to serve as Treasurer. A Special election will be held next month for this position.

### Committee Reports:

**Playground:** Dave Sufrin reported that this weekend there will be a cleanup and maintenance program at the Super Playground. A Mailing has been sent to all members. Everyone is encouraged to come out and work with your neighbors on this worthwhile project. In case of rain, the working weekend will be rescheduled for the spring. A maintenance person has been hired to do technical repairs on a regular basis (to be paid by the endowment). Restitution will be sought from the city for the loss of materials that occurred when the shed at the pool was torn down.

**Children's Committee:** Tania Grubbs reported on the preparations for the Halloween Parade to be held Saturday afternoon, October 30. There will also be a celebration the previous evening on Mellon Street featuring pumpkin carving and apple bobbing.

**Membership:** Kelly Meade has reported that we have 575 dues paying members to date which includes 39 renewals from last year's \$5.00 initial one time rate.

**Commercial District Committee:** Discussions continue relative to improvements to the Peppi's/Walnut Market complex. In addition, Muzz Meyers will represent HPCC at the HPCDC meetings. Mitch will attend the second in a series of three meetings regarding the Mayor's proposed community grants to explore the possibility of improvements to Bryant Street. Tom Dickson will also attend representing the HPCDC.

Thanks to Dell Ziegler for his hard work in getting IRS penalty dropped.

Welcome to the new salon at Jackson and Beatty Streets, Hendrick's House of Hair.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

## REPORT: 1999-2000 HPCC MEMBERSHIP

Kelly Meade

As of October 20, 1999, there are 575 dues-paying HPCC members. In addition, 52 people/organizations are receiving a complimentary newsletter.

Results of the July, 1999, mass mailing with a membership drive to date:

New Members:	Renewing Members to date:
51	310 @\$20
10 @\$20	1 @\$15
41 @\$5	3 @\$10

Since the renewal cards were sent in September and not in August as they should have been, renewals are still being received on a daily basis. A list of new members will be included in the next Newsletter.

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## A Reservoir Party

*Diane DeNardo*

Derbies, ball caps, cowboy hats and straw hats....Friends and neighbors gathered at Dilworth Traditional Academy on Saturday, October 9 to surprise Dave Hance and thank him for the nine-year effort to keep the Highland Park Reservoir No. 1 from being covered. Along with Dave, the following committee members who served for different periods of time were also thanked: Dick Bickerstaff, Debbie deAngelis, David Klahr, Kelly Meade, Tom Succop and Dell Ziegler.

Dave and his fellow committee members were recognized along with other Highland Parkers who wrote letters to the editor, signed petitions, or called elected officials. This was a party of neighbors thanking neighbors for the time and energy they devoted to an important cause.

Teresa LaGamba and Jasmine Manguel, third graders at Dilworth, began the festivities by singing *America the Beautiful* with clear, loud and beautiful voices. Mayor Tom Murphy joined the merry assemblage and spoke with pride of Dave's efforts and what volunteers can accomplish. Jill Weiss was presented with a bouquet of flowers for supporting her husband's volunteerism and because she is a great person herself. And then everyone tipped his or her hat to Dave for a job well done.

Percussionist Charles Hall of Stanton Ave. provided the music and Jan Stayianos of Farragut St. designed a cake that looked like what else, the Reservoir! Floating in the clear blue water was Dave in a rowboat. Was he surprised by the festivities? Yes. Was he a good sport? Of course, it is Dave we're talking about. He even sat in the special chair.

## Ninety Crimes Since January 1! What can we do about it?

Ollie Rieley

Ninety crimes in Highland Park since January 1! What can we do about it? That's what C.O.P. Officer Christine Scalise discussed at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

In her presentation during the October 21 meeting, Officer Scalise showed a map of the Highland Park neighborhood that was marked with the locations of vehicle thefts (i.e., thefts of cars or from cars), robberies and burglaries since the beginning of 1999. About 90 crimes are shown on the map. Many of the events occurred near the Stanton Ave. boundary of Highland Park, with the rest scattered throughout the neighborhood. Officer Scalise noted that the overall crime rate is down this year and these numbers show these crimes are down about 10% in Highland Park compared to last year at this time. Highland Park accounts for about 5% of Zone 5 calls, this compares with Morningside with 3.5% and Bloomfield/Friendship with 11.5%.

Officer Scalise said an effective block watch program is a deterrent to this kind of crime. Individual block leaders serve as coordinators in a block watch program. All the residents of the block are trained to be observant of what is going on around them and to report suspicious activity to the police and the block leader. Periodic block meetings are held to exchange information. Periodic meetings are held of the Block Leaders also.

Highland Park has in the past had a vigorous block watch program, but it has gone to "sleep". Officer Scalise is working to "wake" it up and return it to the vigor of years past. To this end, she had attendees fill in forms with their addresses and an indication of whether they would be interested in being a block leader.

Officer Scalise also enumerated several tips for reducing the risk of being the victim: Do not leave cars running or unlocked or with visible items of value in them. Keep houses securely locked, don't admit strangers without checking credentials and that they are expected in the neighborhood. Carry some small bills outside wallet to give up in a robbery, men keep wallets in inside pockets, women keep purses close and on shoulder. Don't resist a robber. Officer Scalise also noted that Silent Complaint Forms are

available to anonymously report criminal or suspicious activity to the police. The forms are available at the COP office or the Zone 5 Station.

Maureen Cato, a past chair of the Public Safety Committee and current Chair of the Zone 5 Citizens Public Safety Council, noted that there is a monthly meeting of neighborhood leaders at the Zone 5 Police Station during which the police brief the audience on current issues and the attendees exchange information and ideas. The next meeting will be November 10<sup>th</sup> and will feature a discussion of auto theft showing recent occurrences in Zone 5 and discussing ways to prevent it including the BAT (Beat Auto Theft) program. These meetings regularly include the commander of Zone 5, and other police leaders. The Commander will respond to audience questions; since some questions require research to properly answer they should be submitted in advance to permit answering at the meeting. These are regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Station house. Mrs. Cato suggested that the Block Watch Committee and Public Safety Committee be combined because they relate to the same thing.

Anyone interested in being a leader in this cause contact Officer Scalise at the C.O.P. station 665-3644 (leave a message if she's not there) or on her pager 690-6008. **Remember: emergency calls to the police go to 911.** \*\*\*\*\*

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### St. Andrew's Church

5801 Hampton Street \* Highland Park

#### Sunday Morning Services - November

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

11:00 a.m. Choral Morning Worship

Nursery and Church School at 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Morning Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

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**The Next HPCC meeting is 7:15 p.m., Thursday, November 18th at St. Andrew's**

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<b>NOVEMBER CALENDAR</b>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>KIDS FREE AT THE ZOO</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 14</b>	<b>PITTSBURGH SEMINARY CONCERT SERIES, ARMENIAN DUO, VIOLIN, PIANO, 2:00 P.M., PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, ADMISSION</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 18</b>	<b>HPCC MEETING, ELECTION OF TREASURER, PROGRAM BY MEG CHEEVER, PGH PARKS CONSERVANCY; 7:15 P.M., ST. ANDREW'S</b>
<b>November 25</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>